



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

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PERSONNEL AND
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NOV 12 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Language Requirements and Foreign Area Expertise

In a June 25, 2002 memorandum I requested an assessment of our capabilities in the area of expertise currently provided under the Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program.

In examining the responses and subsequent staff reports, it has become clear that language proficiency, area knowledge, and cultural awareness are the most critical skills FAOs require to function successfully in military diplomacy, security cooperation, coalition liaison, and political-military analyst assignments.

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LCSR —

It has also become clear that we have not focused on the true needs for language and area specialists across the spectrum of DoD missions. It is essential that DoD planners and programmers understand the magnitude and criticality of operational requirements for solid foreign language and area expertise in order to ensure adequate professional support to DoD engagement around the globe. We must ascertain what those needs are from the "user" level – field commanders and agency heads.

Therefore, I ask that you thoroughly review languages needed and proficiency levels required for language specialists (interpreters, translators, cryptolinguists, interrogators) and area specialists (enlisted, officer and civilian). The review should be based upon operational experience and on projected needs in the context of Defense Planning Guidance and Transformation and not on current manning authorizations.

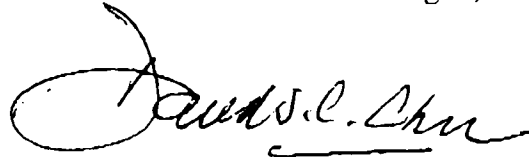
Please provide the criteria used to establish requirements and the desired source of language and area expertise, (active and reserve components, civilian employees, and contractor support) and indicate where existing allocations should be traded off to support emerging requirements.

Please send me a summary, in absolute numbers, of your results in terms of inventory on staff and projected needs by language and region in the format of the attachment provided by January 3, 2003. Combatant Commands are requested to provide



their input to the Joint Staff for consideration and review. Once you have updated and submitted this information, please take the necessary action to update personnel manning and data systems.

My point of contact for this matter is John. G. Vonglis, 703-697-9504.



David S. C. Chu

Attachment:

As stated

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DoD LANGUAGE LIST
CLASSIFY ACCORDING TO ENTRY

Language	Language Identification Codes	Primary Country	Interpreter	Translator	Interrogator	Attaché	Security Assistance Officer	PAO Pol-Mil	Regional Area Officer	Cryptolinguist, Language Analyst	Debriefing	Automated Translation	Automated Communicator (Speech)
Afrikaans	AA	South Africa											
Akan	AB	Ghana											
Albanian	AB	Albania											
Amharic	AC	Ethiopia											
Arabic MSA	AD	Mid East, N. Africa											
Algerian Spoken	DH	Algeria											
Egyptian Spoken	AE	Egypt											
Gulf Spoken	DG	Kuwait											
Iraqi Spoken	DG	Iraq											
Syrian (Levantine) Spoken	AP	Syria											
Libyan Spoken	AL	Libya											
Moroccan Spoken	AM	Morocco											
Sudanese Spoken	AV	Sudan											
Tunisian Spoken		Tunisia											
Yemeni Spoken	AU	Yemen											
Armenian	AR	Armenia											
Assamese		India											
Awadhi		India											
Aymara	AY	Bolivia											
Azeri	AX	Iran, Azerbaijan											
Azeri North		Azerbaijan											
Azeri South		Iran											
Balochi	BT	Pakistan											
Belarusian	BL	Belarus											
Bengali (Bangla)	BN	Bangladesh											
Berber	BR/TT	Algeria, Morocco											
Brahui		Pakistan											
Bulgarian	BU	Bulgaria											
Burmese	BY	Myanmar											
Cambodian (Khmer)	CA	Cambodia											
Chechen	CK	Russia											
Chhattisgarhi		India											
Chinese													

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